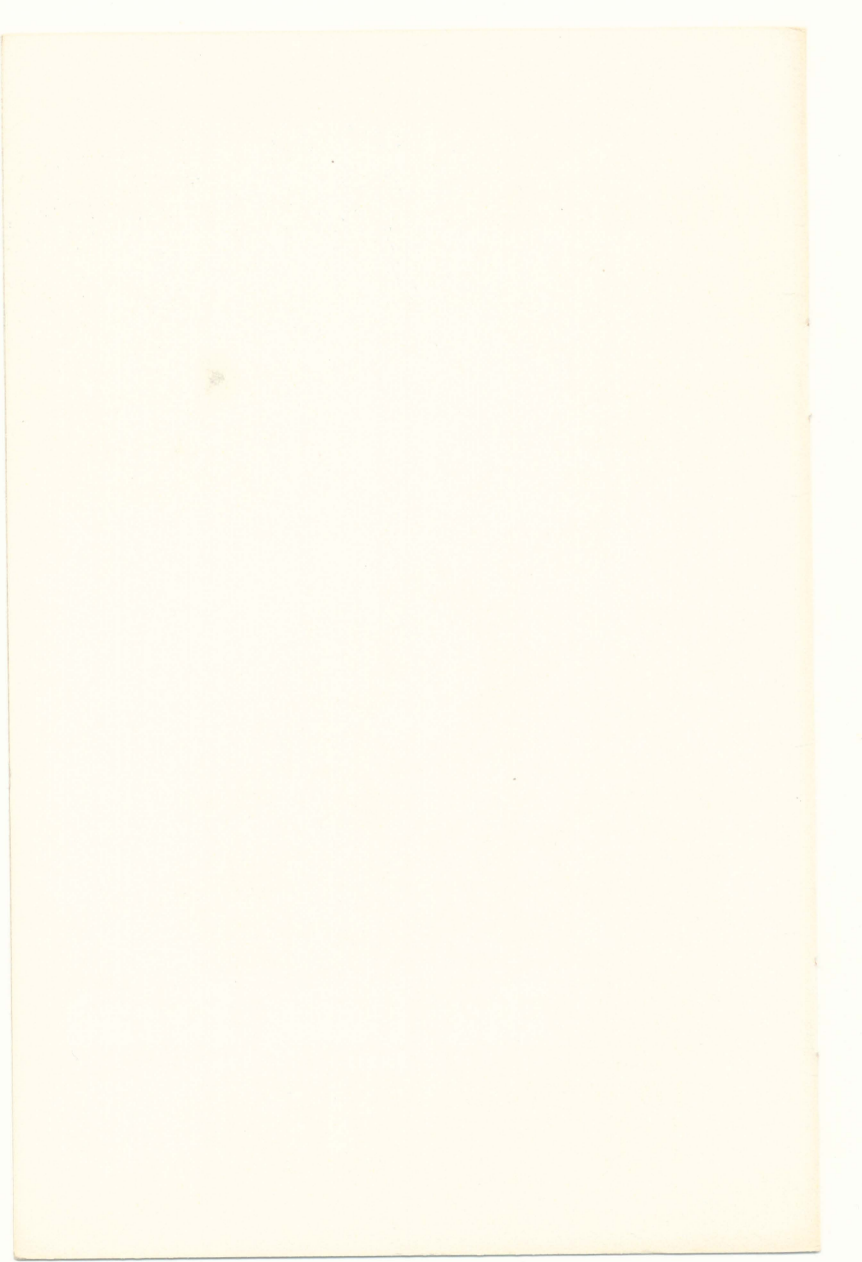


A young child with blonde hair and bangs is smiling at the camera. They are wearing a bright yellow raincoat with a matching hood and a large yellow bow at the neck. They are holding a large yellow umbrella over their head. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Our Daily Bread

APRIL

1961



Our Daily Bread

AN AID TO PERSONAL AND FAMILY DEVOTIONS

VOL. 6, No. 1 ————— APRIL 1961

Editors: M. R. De Haan and H. G. Bosch



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TASTE IT AND SEE!

Suggested Scripture Reading: Psalm 34

O taste and see that the LORD is good Psalm 34:8

THE proof of the pudding is in the eating." So goes an old proverb and it is still true. You could not possibly explain to a person how a tomato tastes if he had never tried one. We cannot possibly explain to a person the joy and peace of salvation if he has not personally experienced it. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see" (John 3:3). Experience is the best teacher. Our business is to get men and women to "taste and see," and no more arguments will be needed. Sometime ago I heard Dr. Howard Ferrin tell the following amusing but pointed story:

"A little boy was carrying home a pail of honey. Soon he slyly slipped a finger into the pail and then taking the pail in the other hand, he lifted the finger to his mouth and licked off the honey. The pail was returned to the right hand, and soon again the finger slowly dipped into the honey. The pail was again transferred to the other hand, and the finger carefully licked. Um-yum, was it good! This happened several times and a man watching him came up and said, "What's in the pail?" "**Honey**," was the reply. "Is it good?" "It sure is!" "How good is it?" "Well, it's very good. It's sweet." "How sweet?" asked the man; and the answer was, "Very sweet!" "Yes, but just **HOW** sweet is it?" was the query. The boy, unable to explain how sweet "sweet" really was, in desperation plunged his finger into the pail and putting the dripping digit right up to the man's mouth said, "**TASTE IT AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.**" To any unsaved person reading this, I want to say, "Taste the things of God and see for yourself."

—M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 16:31

*Hearken today to the blest invitation
Given in love by our Father on high;
Come to the wonderful stream of salvation,
Taste of the fountain that never runs dry.*

—Mrs. C. H. Morris



THOT: "The 'bread of life' does not need any '**VITAMINS ADDED.**'"

—M.R.D.

APRIL 1, 1961 (Saturday)

THE LIVING CHRIST!

Suggested Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

*I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am
alive for evermore, Amen.* Revelation 1:18

DOCTOR DALE of Birmingham had been a minister for many years when one day the Holy Spirit impressed Revelation 1:18 upon his soul in an unusual way. Starting up from his study he exclaimed, "Why, Jesus is **really alive!**" From that day forward he went forth to preach with a new-found power and zeal.

It is interesting to note that the message spoken by the disciples as recorded in the Book of Acts mentions the death of the Saviour only fleetingly. In fact, the word "cross" does not appear in the Book of Acts at all, while such terms as "resurrection," "alive," and "raised from the dead," occur over 30 times in connection with the apostolic message. **Apparently the Holy Spirit wants to center our attention upon the living Christ!** It is regrettable that so many still are viewing Jesus as a dead Saviour on a crucifix!

Some time ago a missionary couple and their children went on a sightseeing tour in Costa Rica. The youngest of the children was six-year-old Mark. First they visited a cathedral in Carago, where the children noticed a statue of the dead Christ hanging on a cross! Later, they visited an old Spanish mission and were astonished to see a **wax figure of Christ in a glass enclosed casket!** That night, during family devotions, little Mark said thoughtfully, "Daddy, I have seen Jesus dead so many times today; please tell me again the story of the resurrection!" After listening to the wonderful account of One who is now alive forevermore in a real "flesh and bones" body (Luke 24:39), the little fellow exclaimed, "Daddy, that's the best story in the whole world!"

At the empty tomb, the angels said, "**Go quickly . . . and tell . . .**"; ever since, God's purpose has been the same: to take the message of a living Lord and Saviour to all who have not heard. By faith are you beholding Him who is "alive forevermore?"

—H.G.B.

*He is not here, rejoice, then, ye saints of the most High;
Sing resurrection anthems — He lives no more to die.*

*To those who seek a Saviour, we speak these words of yore:
He is not here, He's risen, and lives forevermore.*

—Rev. S. G. Brondsmä

THOT: "The resurrection of Christ is the promise of a living Person to be the life of every person who implicitly trusts Him."

—E. Newman

APRIL 2, 1961 (Sunday)

ALONE WITH GOD

Suggested Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22, 23

... he was there alone.

Matthew 14:23

ALONE with God! Not LONELY — but alone! With God. If Jesus the perfect man needed again and again to withdraw Himself from the press of the crowd, and the humdrum of daily duties — to be alone with the Father — how is it that we imagine that we can get along without it? Time and again Jesus sent the multitudes away — and even left His disciples — to be ALONE with the Father. The most fruitful hours are not those when we are the busiest — WORKING; but when we are the quietest — LISTENING! It is difficult to hear His voice amid the clang and clamor of our daily life. It is in the secret of His presence that we hear a “still small voice” which prepares us for the daily task. Before reading the rest of this article, why not take a few moments with the Lord to just BE QUIET and LISTEN?

After Johnny had said his prayers, he stayed on his knees till mother thought he had fallen asleep. But Johnny said, “God was so patient to listen to my prayer, I want to listen now to what He says to me.” — S-h-h-h-h! Listen!

Alone with Him — the Father — on the mountain. It was there our great Example found the strength to go among the crowds to do His wonderful work. If it was worthwhile for Jesus to spend ALL NIGHT in prayer — is it too much to ask of us to arise a little earlier that we may be ALONE with Him? It will do you much more good than those “extra forty winks.”

We mutter and sputter, we fume and we spurt;

We mumble and grumble, our feelings are hurt.

We can't understand things, our vision grows dim

All because we neglect that MOMENT WITH HIM!

—M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 46:10

Just a little while with Jesus

Just a little while each day —

How it strengthens me for service!

How it helps me on the way!

Just a little while with Jesus —

Just to be with Him alone;

All my doubts, and fears, and questions —

He will solve them, every one.

—Elizabeth Browning Kelham

THOT: “God can hear you easier in a closet than on the street.” (Proof—Matt. 6:6—No Arguments please!)

—M.R.D.

APRIL 3, 1961 (Monday)

PLEASURE VERSUS JOY

Suggested Scripture Reading: John 15:7-11

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 15:11

THE world offers men "pleasures" (Heb. 11:25), but true joy is found only in Jesus. If that joy is to be "full," however, the believer must: (1) **Abide in Christ** (John 15:4, 11); (2) **Commune with Christ** (John 16:23, 24); (3) **Study the Word of Christ** (John 17:13, 14); and (4) **Walk with Christ** (I John 1:3-7).

It is important to recognize the difference between worldly pleasure and spiritual joy:

1. **Pleasure is dependent upon circumstances, but joy is inward** and is not disturbed by environment.

2. **Pleasure is changeful, but joy is constant!** Because worldly delights depend upon things and circumstances, there is constant vacillation and periods of exhilaration followed by depression. Joy is more properly grounded, for it is associated with Him who is "the same yesterday, today, and forever."

3. **Pleasure is seeking, but joy is finding!** To obtain pleasure one must run from one stimulus to another, for pleasure is an elusive will-o'-the-wisp; it refuses to be permanently grasped. Joy is just the opposite. It is something we receive as a gift from the Holy Spirit—a delightful treasure of grace.

4. **Pleasure is built on self-seeking, but joy is based on self-sacrifice.** The higher the wall of self-gratification is built, the deeper becomes the reservoir of human need. When a pint of pleasure gives momentary happiness today, a gallon of excitement and thrills is necessary for the same effect tomorrow. Joy, however, is based on giving. By emptying "self," the Christian continues to condense his personal requirements until he finds the nucleus of his existence in God Himself who meets every need.

Only when you seek the things of Christ can you obtain abiding joy!

—H.G.B.

There is joy beyond all measure

In abiding in the Lord,

It is promised most abundant

And enduring in His Word. —Mrs. F. McQuat



THOT: "A round world can never fill a triangular-shaped heart, only the Trinity can do that." —M.R.D.

APRIL 4, 1961 (Tuesday)

DO YOU LIKE MILK?

Suggested Scripture Reading: I Peter 2:1-6

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word

I Peter 2:2

THE kitchen door burst suddenly open, and in dashed David, my oldest grandson. Excitedly he said, "Grandpa, may I use the phone, I must call a doctor quick. Penny is having a colt!" Penny is David's beautiful Palomino mare and she was giving birth to her first colt. I soon quieted David with the assurance it was quite a natural process; and with a little assistance from "Grandpaw" (an M.D. — not a veterinarian) Penny gave birth to a splendid mare colt. Within thirty minutes the colt (after several unsuccessful attempts) was on her feet, and here comes the point of the story. Immediately after getting on her wobbly feet she went straight to the "cafeteria," which was all ready for her with nice warm food. The colt knew on which end of the counter the food was to be found, and soon she was "gurgling" and nursing to her heart's content. The first desire of the newborn colt was for food.

So it is with newborn babes in Christ. There is a desire for the milk of the Word. The first requirement is FOOD. The Word of God is MILK for the newborn, as it is meat for the mature. We can no more grow spiritually without the Word than a baby can grow without milk. Milk is a perfect food containing every element required for normal healthy growth. DON'T NEGLECT THE WORD. To begin ANY day without the Word is to invite tragedy. Penny's baby knew where to look for the supply to satisfy her hunger and need. How sad that many Christians are not as smart as "Penny's colt." Have you read the Scripture for today?

—M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: II Peter 3:18

*Still on Thy Holy Word
We'd live, and feed, and GROW,
Go on to know the Lord,
And practice what we know.*



—Anon.

THOT: "We do not need to teach a baby to nurse; all we need to do is keep up the supply." —M.R.D.

APRIL 5, 1961 (Wednesday)

ATHEISM ON TRIAL

Suggested Scripture Reading: Romans 3:10-26

There is no fear of God before their eyes. Romans 3:18

A WEALTHY banker in Paris once invited a number of famous men to dinner. Among them was Alexandre Dumas and a famous general. After dinner the illustrious general began to speak very scornfully about God. Among other things he said, "For my part, I can't conceive of the existence of this mysterious Being whom Christians call the **good God!**" "General," replied Alexandre Dumas, "I have two hunting dogs, two monkeys, and a parrot at home, **who are in complete agreement with your opinion.**" Indeed, only the "fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psa. 14:1).

James M. Gillis wrote some years ago in the **Sunday Tribune** as follows: "Only in atheism does the spring rise higher than the source, the effect exist without the cause, life come from a stone, blood from a turnip, a silk purse from a sow's ear, and a Beethoven's symphony or a Bach fugue from a kitten's walking across the keys." How abysmal is the darkness, how foolish the conclusions of the sinful, unregenerated mind.

A noted lecturer had once delivered a scathing attack on Christianity and dared any man to refute his atheism and infidelity. A common laborer arose and said, "I have been a member of this club for five years. Six months ago I lost my job and was ill. Not one of you atheists came near me, though my illness was known here. But a man and his wife came and nursed us and provided for us; otherwise neither my wife nor I would be alive today. **That man is a city missionary whom I had once driven from my home with threats.** When I was well enough to think, I asked myself why he had been so kind to me. So I inquired of him, and he told me that he had done it for the love of Christ. I say that which will bring a man to the bedside of one who has hated him and cursed him, and makes him return good for evil and love for hate, is a wonderful thing for this troubled life. Do you wonder then why I have taken Christ as my Saviour?"

Yes, both reason and practice reveal atheism's folly!

—H.G.B.

Only the fool in heart doth say,

"There is no God — live for today!"

Certain doom is the awful goal

Of such a one with a poor, lost soul! —H.G.B.

THOT: "Doubt springs from the unregenerated mind, but faith is the daughter of the enlightened soul!"

APRIL 6, 1961 (Thursday)

NURSING YOUR GRUDGES

Suggested Scripture Reading: Genesis 4:1-8

Grudge not one against another, brethren

James 5:9

DO you carry a grudge against someone? It will hurt no one else as much as it will hurt you. You will find that if you do not feed your grudges they will soon die of starvation. Just what is a grudge anyway? You may think it is a justifiable feeling of resentment which you hold because of some fault in another — but it is really a sign of smallness on your part. The very opposite of a grudge is forgiveness. If you carry a grudge it is because you cannot forgive, overlook, or ignore some little hurt or insult. Holding a grudge is a symptom of smallness. Suppose God had carried a grudge against us — would He have sent His Son to die for us on the Cross of Calvary? Ninety-nine per cent of all the trouble among Christians is caused by a grudge over some little “peanutty,” picayune thing or irritation which grows bigger and bigger the longer we nurse it. Honestly now — do you carry a grudge against someone today? Do you want VICTORY over it? Then listen — go to the one against whom you hold that grudge and say, “I’m sorry and I want you to forgive me.” That will be the end of your grudge. This may be hard on your pride, but it will be good for your soul. As someone has said, “It’s nice to be important, but it’s far more important to be nice.” “But,” you say, “he is to blame — not I.” Yes, I know, that’s just the point. Who was to blame when Jesus came down TO YOU to save YOU? You were the guilty one — but He, the innocent one came TO YOU. He didn’t carry a grudge against the guilty one but HUMBLING HIMSELF to save you. The INNOCENT humbled Himself for the GUILTY one. Go thou and do likewise!

—M.R.D. —

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 2:8

*So often things come up, that leave a pain and sting,
That covered up at once, would not amount to anything.
'Tis when we hold them up to view and brood and sulk and fret,
They greater grow before our eyes—'twere better to forget.*
—Anon.

THOT: “Grudges, like babies, grow bigger by ‘nursing’ them.”

APRIL 7, 1961 (Friday)

"SO MUCH" AND "SO LITTLE"

Suggested Scripture Reading: Proverbs 23:19-32

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators . . . nor drunkards . . . shall inherit the kingdom of God.
I Corinthians 6:9, 10

IT has been truthfully and pointedly said by R. F. Horton: "Drinking is, after all, only a pronounced symptom of a larger vice — **self-indulgence**; and self-indulgence is always fatal in the long run to all the habits and activities which men properly honor." A drunkard may not know it, but his alcoholism is essentially a maladjustment and a spiritual disorder. He is attempting to find fulfillment in a bottle rather than in God. If the slave to liquor wishes to find permanent release from his vicious habit, he should stop "bending elbows" at bars, and start bending his knees in the inner closet.

A drunkard in England was bragging in the local pub of the wondrous good temper of his Christian wife. He and some of his drunken companions thought it would be an excellent joke to "ruffle her feathers" and disturb her peace in Christ. So they went to his home long after midnight and aroused her from bed. Her husband ordered her to get supper for him and his drunken companions immediately. She arose, prepared the meal, and waited on them like an angel. Her husband was surprised and afterward in a more sober moment, asked her how she could do it. "Why, dear," she said, "**I have so much** before me and **you have so little!** This is all the happiness you will ever have, and I want to give you all I can." It broke the poor man up and eventually brought him to the feet of the Savior.

Indeed, no drunkard "shall inherit the kingdom of God."

—H.G.B.

*You're taking just a glass a day, and maybe on the sly,
"I need it for my nerves," you say,
But 'twill get you by-and-by.*

*The risk, it cannot be denied, is very, very great!
Come over to the better side
Before it is too late!*

—J. Rowe

THOT: "When wine is in, the wit is out, and then the man . . . either mocks like a fool, or rages like a madman."
—Matthew Henry

APRIL 8, 1961 (Saturday)

GOD'S X-RAY MACHINE

Suggested Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:33-40

*... the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth
all the imaginations of the thoughts . . .*

I Chronicles 28:9

GOD is omniscient. He knows all, He sees all, and there is nothing hidden from the eyes of God. It is not difficult to believe this in these days of radar, infra-red rays, and X-rays. By radar, objects heretofore invisible are brought to light; and by means of the fluoroscope and X-rays, objects within the body can be detected.

A professor of physics in a Southern college was trying to explain the wonders of the X-ray machine to a group of students. He told them how objects within the chest, stomach, and abdomen could be detected. All the young men seemed interested except one who was visibly disturbed. After the class he came to the teacher with a look of deep concern on his face. "Teacher," he said, "if I have recently eaten watermelon, I want to know whether you can look into my stomach and see it?" The teacher suspecting something replied, "Yes, Ephraim, we can." "Well then," said the guilty boy with a nervous glance, "I want to ask one more question. Could you also tell with that machine WHERE that watermelon CAME FROM?"

It is only an amusing story, but it reminds us that God too has His X-rays which are as old as the human race. One of these is **conscience**, and no man can escape it; for there is within the heart that inner voice which accuses when wrong is done. Even though one has never read a verse of Scripture, yet he is without excuse, for his own conscience will condemn him. God not only sees the heart of man, but conscience rings the bell which warns of impending judgment.

—M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 2:14, 15

*List to your conscience, my brother,
It prods like a chastening rod;
Accusing or else excusing,
It acts as the sentinel of God.*



—H.G.B.

THOT: "A good conscience is the looking glass of Heaven."

APRIL 9, 1961 (Sunday)

LIFE AND TASTELESS EGG-WHITES

Suggested Scripture Reading: Job 6:1-6

... is there any taste in the white of an egg? Job 6:6

JOB, a good and righteous man (Job 1:8), was being attacked by Satan under Divine permission. God had called him the best man on earth, and the Devil had challenged the Almighty to take away the "hedge" of his protection and allow him to put Job to the test. Job's friends did not understand that all trial and tribulation is not chastening for sin, and so they wrongly accused him of being guilty of great and grievous transgressions. Job, however, continues to assert his innocence and is sorely grieved by their tactless and heartless condemnation. With a nagging wife who tells him to "curse God, and die," with friends who are ready to think the worst of him, with Satan attacking him, and with life reduced to pain and abject misery, Job finds his existence worse than useless and as unrewarding and as tasteless as "**the white of an egg.**" He is so despondent that he wishes that it might be the will of God for him to die.

God had not forgotten Job, however; actually he was "exhibit A" in the Lord's controversy with Satan. God was so proud of him and loved him so much that He felt Job could be depended upon to glorify His Name no matter how great the personal sacrifice. The Most High had decided to forever inscribe his name upon the pages of Holy Writ for the comfort and encouragement of other tried saints, and to restore to him double that of which he had been deprived (Job 42:12-17). His life, though as tasteless as the white of an egg to Job, was actually delightfully flavored with God's love and perfect direction.

Job's experience should be both a warning and a comfort to us. Let us be warned against hasty judgments in regard to why some of God's children are made to suffer so sorely; and then, too, let us never think that life is too dark and meaningless to be worth going on. Our sojourn here, no matter how distasteful, always has great meaning if we remain submissive to God's will. He is planning to reward us abundantly for every trial, tear, and disappointment (Rom. 8:18).

To God, a life seasoned by the salt of grace is always tasty!
—H.G.B.

*Afflictions may test us, they cannot destroy,
One glimpse of thy love, turns them all into joy. —Anon.*

THOT: "The measure of a life is not its **DURATION** but its **DONATION!**"
—Peter Marshall

APRIL 10, 1961 (Monday)

A PAIR OF SCALES

Suggested Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 25:13-16

Matthew 7:1-5

A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.
Proverbs 11:1

ONE of the oldest tricks of the crooked merchant is the trick of two scales or two measures. One scale is used when purchasing an article, while the other is used in selling it. Such "chiseling" is condemned by God; it is dishonest, and Jesus says that such will be repaid in "kind" — for "with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again" (Matt. 7:2). These tricks of the trade come very natural. The butcher who holds his hand on the steak when he weighs it, or the farmer who feeds his cow salt so it will fill up on water before he sells it, or the man who judges his neighbor by his own standard, all fall in the same category. This, however, is not only true in business — it is true in society. Too often people have **TWO STANDARDS** — one for private use, and one for public application to others. We measure ourselves by a different standard than we do our neighbor. This too is sin. What we consider a **fault** in others is tolerated as a **weakness** in ourselves. Have you ever noticed that when the other fellow acts up, he is ugly and has a nasty temper; but when you do it, it's your "nerves"? When the other fellow is set in his ways, he is obstinate; when you are, you are just "firm." When the other fellow suspects a friend, he is prejudiced; if it's you, it's just "good judgment." The other fellow's slowness is "deliberateness" with you. He is a spendthrift — you are just "generous." Crankiness in the other fellow is just "discrimination" in yourself. Crookedness in him, is "cleverness" in you. Stinginess becomes "frugality" when you are the guilty one. Learn to weigh yourself **ON THE OTHER FELLOW'S SCALES!**

Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights — a great and a small.
—M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 7:2

*Make the scales equal and don't judge another
Till first you have criticized YOU:*

It's easy, so easy to see other's flaws,

'Tis harder to judge what YOU DO! —G.W.



THOT: "If we had no faults ourselves, we should not take so much pleasure in finding out the failures of others!"

APRIL 11, 1961 (Tuesday)

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Suggested Scripture Reading: Romans 12:4-12

... continuing instant in prayer. Romans 12:12



GOD delights to have us confide in Him regularly, earnestly, and expectantly. Most Christians, however, have very shallow prayer lives. When we do lift our hands in supplication and petition, it is usually for some selfish end or strictly personal need — not for the souls of men or for the advancement of Christ's cause. Yet what blessings could not accrue, what glory could not be brought to our soul if we would just more earnestly engage in the ministry of prayer.

Dr. Jowett tells an interesting story concerning a servant girl by the name of Mary who had few opportunities to do anything for the Lord except to pray for others. Her employer kept her so busy in his home that often she was not able to even attend the church services on Sunday. While visiting in the home, Dr. Jowett took the opportunity of asking her if she was ever able to do anything for the Lord, considering her busy schedule. "Oh, yes, Doctor, I take a newspaper to my bedroom each night," she replied. The good man wondered what that had to do with the question, but before he could ask she continued, "I always turn to the births, marriages, and death columns. I pray first that the little babies may early be led to the Saviour and become a great blessing to their parents and others. I pray that the brides and grooms may be very happy and may always be true to each other. I pray, one by one, for all the bereaved that they may turn in their sorrow to the one Source of lasting comfort." Dr. Jowett came away impressed, for he recognized that the Church had few such unselfish prayer warriors.

How extensive is your prayer ministry? —H.G.B.

*I love to feel that though on earth we may not meet,
Yet we may hold heart fellowship at God's dear feet,
I like to feel that in the work thou hast to do,
That I, by lifting hands of prayer, may help thee, too,
I like to think that in the path His love prepares,
Thy steps may sometimes stronger prove through secret prayers;
I like to think, that, when on High results we see
Perchance thou wilt rejoice that I thus prayed for thee.*

—Apon.

THOT: "It's not enough to say a prayer; we have to live one too."

APRIL 12, 1961 (Wednesday)

ARE YOU A CRIPPLE?

Suggested Scripture Reading: Leviticus 21:16-14

*The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable
in the mouth of fools.* Proverbs 26:7

STOP! I said STOP! Don't read what follows — if you haven't read Leviticus 21:16-24. It will take you just ONE MINUTE — (Pause — ONE MINUTE). Are you a lame priest, disqualified for service? In the service of God, a priest had to be free from physical defects — such as skin blemishes, blindness, paralysis, flat nose, flat feet, curvature of the spine, or defects of the sex organs. He must not be a midget, a dwarf, or a cripple. This did not mean he was NOT a priest, but he was disqualified to SERVE as a priest. He could EAT the food of the priest, but could not be of service (see again Lev. 21:21-23). He was "separated" from the rest of the group.

Last summer we watched a group of six brown bears feeding at a dump in Yosemite National Park. Five were feeding together but one remained as far away from the others as possible. We wondered why and drove our car closer — within ten feet — before the bear got up and LIMPED away. He was a cripple — one hind leg was inches shorter than the others. He had been injured and could not hold his own with the rest. He was out of fellowship because he was a cripple. Solomon says, "The legs of the lame are not equal."

Are you a lame Christian? Do you limp around instead of running in the race? (I Cor. 9:24). Do you have a spiritual blemish or deformity which hinders your service? Examine yourself in the light of God's Word and ask yourself, "What is there in my life which 'cripples' my service? What inconsistency makes me lame?" Some sin, some habit, some weight which you know is displeasing to Him is limiting you. Confess it before you go to work today. Let Him heal your infirmity by His cleansing blood and make this a day of VICTORY and SERVICE — not of defeat and regrets. —M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: I John 1:9

*Because God is patient and loving,
We find it so easy to shirk.
Lord, cleanse us, and help us to ever
Put all of our self in Thy work!* —Anon.

THOT: "A cripple may TRY to run in the race but he'll take no blue ribbons or medals." —M.R.D.

APRIL 13, 1961 (Thursday)

MORE ABOUT CRIPPLES

Suggested Scripture Reading: Leviticus 21:16-24

... *any thing superfluous* Leviticus 21:18

NEVER mind — I know the Scripture for today is the same as the assignment for yesterday. I did it on purpose. Some of you didn't read it — so we give you a second chance. The priest in the Old Testament could not be of service if he had a blemish, deformity, or weakness. His deformity did not affect his POSITION as a priest but disqualified him for SERVICE. The application is clear — we too are priests of God, called to serve. Our position, our salvation, is not dependent upon our perfection but upon HIS. Nevertheless God cannot use a spiritually crippled and deformed Christian. They that bear the vessels of the Lord must be clean (Isa. 52:11).

Not only did any "lack" of physical members disqualify the priest but also anything of a "superfluous" nature. For instance, a priest with more than ten fingers or ten toes was disqualified. The extra finger or toe would get in the way of the others. It was abnormal. We call it a super-numerary member. In II Samuel 21:20 we are told that a brother of Goliath the giant had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. But with all this extra super-numerary equipment he fell an easy prey to David's nephew. God gave man ten fingers and ten toes and more than these will only get in the way — and weaken instead of strengthening. God, too, has given us certain faculties — do not try to strengthen spiritual powers by fleshly additions. To use carnal means to do spiritual work is to spoil it all by adding something to God's work. Don't try to be a giant, when God wants you to be a little David. God does not need giants to help him — when they are all fingers and toes.

—M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 12:3

*Some serve their generation, some those unborn;
Some lose their lives in secret, like buried corn;
Some sow their field with weeping, some reap the grain
And fill their barns with plenty from other's pain.
Dear Master, Thine appointments to me are sweet,
If I'm but for Thy service a vessel meet.*

—Max I. Reich

THOT: "God is looking for little Davids, so that He can match them up with giant opportunities to serve Him!"

—E. S. Johnson

APRIL 14, 1961 (Friday)

TRUSTING GOD

Suggested Scripture Reading: Psalm 56:1-11

*Who is among you . . . that walketh in darkness,
and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the
LORD . . .* Isaiah 50:10

THE Christian's consecration is tested best in the darkness of trial when the light of human reason finds no good or appealing pathway into the future. "I find it terribly hard to trust God, and to realize His hand in the dark passages of life," said one Christian to another. "Well," said the other, "if you cannot trust a man out of your sight, he is not worth much. So, too, if you cannot trust God when He is hidden in the shadows, it shows you do not trust Him at all."

The true story is told of a man who was going through some very deep and discouraging trials that were testing his trust in God to the breaking point. While worrying about his difficulties he went for a walk in the orchard so that he might have time to think out his problems. His little son who accompanied him wished to climb an old apple tree, so the father stood below watching as the boy ascended. The limbs were rotten and began to break under the youngster's weight. Seeing his son's plight he held up his arms toward him, though he was far up the tree, and called, "Jump, Buddy, I'll catch you." The boy looked for a moment and then as more limbs began breaking he said, "Shall I let go of everything, Daddy, and trust you?" "Yes," said the father. Without a moment's hesitation, the boy jumped and was safely caught in his parent's arms. Later the father said, "That little incident went directly to my heart as a message from God to me — 'Father, shall I let go of everything and trust you?' I understood what the Lord was trying to teach me; I trusted Him, and He very soon wonderfully supplied my need."

Is your way dark? Is the outlook bleak? Try the **up-look** and trust in God! —H.G.B.

*Trust Him when dark doubts assail thee,
Trust Him when Thy strength is small.
Trust Him, when to simply trust Him
Is the hardest thing of all.*

—Anon.

THOT: "With trust in God, caverns of trial become mines of diamonds."

APRIL 15, 1961 (Saturday)

THESE WONDERFUL BODIES

Suggested Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:7

... I am fearfully and wonderfully made

Psalm 139:14

THE most wonderful, complex organism is the human body. Yet the record of its creation is simplicity itself — embraced in just a few verses as given in the suggested Scripture reading. Physically the human body consists of the most common elements — oxygen, hydrogen, calcium, phosphorus, sulphur, iron, potassium, etc. It is 85% water. As far as the body is concerned it is little different than that of any other animal. The wonder is, that in this body, God has condescended to live. Only of the body of man is it said that it is the "temple or dwelling place of God." If He wants to live in these bodies it means, of course, that He wants to USE them.

And what potentialities dwell in these bodies. If you are a person of average size, you perform in each day of 24 hours the following functions: Your heart beats 103,689 times; your blood travels 168,000,000 miles. You breathe 23,040 times; you inhale 438 cubic feet of air. You eat between 3 and 4 pounds of food, and drink 3 quarts of liquid, and perspire about 2 pints through your skin; your body maintains a steady temperature of 98.6 degrees under all weather conditions. You generate 450 foot tons of energy; you speak 4800 words (men only), move and use over 700 muscles, use 7,000,000 brain cells, and walk 7 miles (women only in the home — NOT MEN — they ride). And this body belongs to God. With all this activity, how much of it is dedicated to the Creator? Surely this wonderfully made body should be dedicated to its wonderful Creator. Make it a PRESENT to God today. (Please read Romans 12:1, 2.) —M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 12:1, 2

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?

Your heart, does the Spirit control?

You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest,

As you yield Him your body and soul. —E. A. Hoffman

THOT: "If you USE your body for HIM — you will not ABUSE it on SIN."

—M.R.D.

APRIL 16, 1961 (Sunday)

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

Suggested Scripture Reading: II Corinthians 5:14-21

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. II Corinthians 5:20

WHEN the Saviour went away to Glory He sent the Holy Spirit to this earth to empower believers to be His ambassadors — thus committing to men the blessed “ministry of reconciliation.” Jesus did not call his followers “Christians” but rather “witnesses” — thus putting the emphasis where it belongs, **upon our testimony!**

If we are not proficient at verbal witnessing, at least we can hand a poor sinner an attractive piece of Scriptural literature. Much has been wrought for God in this way. Dwight L. Moody began his fruitful evangelistic ministry in Chicago by the simple act of distributing Gospel leaflets to Great Lakes seamen. Whistler's Mother (well-known throughout the world because of her son's famous painting of her) was called a “preacher in skirts” because she constantly handed out tracts and Christian literature to workers on the railroad between Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia.

Just recently, Pastor Owen Lower related to a friend that one night in a New York subway station he saw a man standing alone gazing up the tracks. He felt the urge to give him a tract, but said to himself, “What's the use — he probably will not be interested anyway.” However, the Holy Spirit prompted him to do so despite his own judgment in the matter. Walking up to the stranger he said, “Do you want something to read?” “NO!” replied the man angrily. Then Mr. Lower said, “Have you ever thought of **eternity**, my friend?” The man grabbed the tract and replied, “How did **you** know that I was thinking about **eternity**?” After further conversation, the needy one professed salvation and then told Pastor Lower that when they met he had been standing on the subway station platform **thinking about throwing himself in front of the next train!** How important it was that Pastor Lower had remembered his commission to be an “ambassador for Christ.” — Go ye and do likewise! —H.G.B.

I am a stranger here, within a foreign land;

My home is far away, upon a golden strand;

Ambassador am I of realms beyond the sky—

I'm here on business for my King. —E. T. Cassel, alt.

THOT: “The most valuable sermons delivered are those where one man is the preacher, and one man is the congregation.”

APRIL 17, 1961 (Monday)

DELIGHTFUL PLEASURES

Suggested Scripture Reading: Psalm 16

... at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 16:11

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalm 37:4

WHAT is pleasure? What do we mean by fun, delight, happiness, and joy? It is a relative thing depending upon each individual's taste. Pleasure for one person may be a terribly boring thing for another. The sinner finds pleasure in worldly entertainment and even sinful pursuits, while the Christian finds delight in the study of the Word, Christian fellowship, prayer, and witnessing for Christ. To the world these things seem dull, but to the spiritual man they are a delight.

"What do you do for fun?" This was the question an unconverted man asked of a Christian. "You don't drink, smoke, dance, gamble, attend the shows, or any of these things. What do you do for fun?" The world cannot understand that when we are saved we receive a NEW NATURE with new appetites, desires, and a new delight. Instead of FUN we have PLEASURE. The things we used to love we now hate, and we hate the things we used to love. But this no one can understand until it has been tried. No one can describe the delight of eating strawberries and cream to one who has never tried them. But —give them one taste and — "Say, why didn't you tell me about this before?" So, too, with salvation. Its delights cannot be adequately described. Only as we come and taste and see that the Lord is good (Psa. 34:8) can we know that in Him are pleasures forevermore, and we become forever spoiled for the empty husks of this world's idle pleasures.

—M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 34:8

*The path of life Thou showest me —
Yea, joy of boundless store —
Is ever found at Thy right hand,
And pleasures evermore.*

—Anon.

THOT: "Those who find true blessedness can easily dispense with fun!"

APRIL 18, 1961 (Tuesday)

LIKE HIM!

Suggested Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 15:35-49

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29

SOMEONE has said, "God the Father was so pleased with His Son Jesus, that He wanted a whole Heaven full of people just like Him; therefore He predestinated the believer to be ultimately conformed to His image!" The Bible is primarily the story of two individuals — Adam and Christ. By nature all of us find ourselves in the former; but it is only by grace that we can become identified with the latter.

Dr. Muir, a devout old minister who lived many years ago in Glasgow, was once visiting a lady who had a handsome but spoiled young son. After a while she proudly inquired, "Who do you think he is like, Doctor?" Quaintly he passed by the more immediate family relationships and truly but discerningly replied, "Madam, I would say he is **very much like Adam!**" Yes, all of us by nature bear unmistakably the image of our first father; but God desires something better for us — He wants us to be **like Jesus!** This process, which begins on earth through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, will only be completed at the Saviour's second coming (see I John 3:2).

Spurgeon once wrote to his friend Andrew Bonar for his picture and autograph. Bonar replied, "I will do as you request; but if you had been willing to wait a short season, you could have had a better likeness, for I shall be like Him. I shall soon see Him as He is!" What a day that will be when, fully restored to God's image, we shall enjoy new bodies, have perfect holiness, revel in complete, intuitive knowledge, and be gloriously arrayed in Christ's beauty and righteousness! (See Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10; Rev. 21:3-8 and Rev. 22:3-6).

Christian, can the world today see that you are daily becoming more and more like Jesus in your words and deeds; or do you still more closely resemble your first father, Adam?

—H.G.B.

*Work on then, Lord, till on my soul
Eternal light shall break,
And in Thy likeness perfected
I satisfied shall wake.*

Anon.

THOT: "Christians are photographs of Christ: although they are blurry negatives here, they shall be fully developed reproductions over There!"

—G.W.

APRIL 19, 1961 (Wednesday)

GET UP AND START OVER

Suggested Scripture Reading: Psalm 37:23-41

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down

Psalm 37:24

ARE you "down" this morning? Are you discouraged because of your experience yesterday? In an unguarded moment did you yield to your sin, stumble and fall so that now you are cast down? There is something worse than falling down — it is **staying down**. The wicked fall and shall not arise, but with the Christian it is not so — though he may fall and does fall — he will not be content until he is restored. We should not sin, but too often we do. Remember John says, ". . . these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And (but) if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins" (I John 2:1, 2). If we say we have no sin, "we deceive ourselves." Admit your failings — don't worry over them but confess them. Remember, a worm is about the only creature that cannot fall down. Jesus knew before He died for us what failures we would be, **AFTER** we were saved and so He made provision for our daily cleansing. That is why He is in Heaven today. He is there as our interceding High Priest, presenting His precious blood for our **continual cleansing**.

Why not begin the day with a fresh clean start by taking time to confess your weakness and your need of His strength, and then fortify yourself for the future with some specific verse of Scripture. If each morning you choose some new verse for your protection that day, you will soon know what **VICTORY** really is! —M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 16:8

*I am prone to halt and stumble,
Grief and sorrow dwell within,
Shame and guilt my spirit humble,
I am sorry for my sin.
Lord, my God, Thou'lt not forsake me,
Help me know that Thou art near,
Under Thy protection take me,
As my Saviour now appear.*

—Anon.

THOT: "Faith only works when it is worked (see James 2:17)."
—M.R.D.

APRIL 20, 1961 (Thursday)

COMING SOON!

Suggested Scripture Reading: Titus 2:1-13

... a little while, and ye shall see me. John 16:16



IT is a proven fact that science has advanced more in the last five decades than it had in the preceding 5000 years! This rapid increase in knowledge, without a corresponding increase in man's moral and spiritual qualities has pushed civilization to the very brink of catastrophe. Over one hundred years ago the French scientist Pierre Berchelt, foreseeing this problem, exclaimed: "Someday man will come to know what the atom is. It is my belief that when science reaches this stage, God will come down to earth with His big ring of keys and will say to humanity: 'Gentlemen, it is closing time!'" More recently the well-known commentator Walter Lippman wrote in his column: "The signs are multiplying that **the stage is set for an event of worldwide importance and of unpredictable consequences!**" Yes, informed men realize that we are now living in momentous days. Though they may be blind to the truth of Christ's second coming, they do appreciate the fact that history is advancing toward an earth-shaking climax!

As Christians, however, we are not in darkness, and therefore God expects us to "discern the signs of the times." In Jesus' day those who were blind to prophetic truth were severely reprimanded by our Lord and branded as "hypocrites" (Matt. 16:3). As children of the soon-coming King, we should recognize that there is only one rift in the darkening skies of this age—the predicted return of our Saviour! The golden sunbeam of that promise, filtering through the clouds, rests upon the banner of our hope — **HE IS COMING AGAIN!**

But I hear someone say, "It's nearly two milleniums since Christ made that statement and still He has not returned." The problem vanishes when we remember that a thousand years are as "one day" with the Lord (II Pet. 3:8), so it was only **the day before yesterday** by God's reckoning that Jesus said, "... a little while, and ye shall see me." "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matt. 24:42). —H.G.B.

*Sound the soul-inspiring anthem,
Angel hosts, your harps attune;
Earth's long night is almost over.*

Christ is coming — COMING SOON! —Anon.

THOT: "Believers who dread the thought of the second coming of Christ are not as holy as they ought to be!"

APRIL 21, 1961 (Friday)

WHAT IS IT?

Suggested Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:14-19

... It is manna: for they wist not what it was

Exodus 16:15

THE word MANNA means "what is it?" When the children of Israel awoke in the morning while in the wilderness, they discovered something new — something they had never seen before. Their food had consisted of fish, onions, leeks, garlic, cucumbers, and melons in Egypt (Num. 11:5). But this small white substance — they knew not what it was and so they cried, "MANNA!" — "What is it?" — for "they wist not what it was." However, they soon found out, for it was bread from Heaven — "angel's food" (Psa. 78:25).

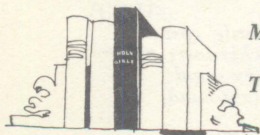
Jesus Himself gave us the meaning of this bread from Heaven for He said, "I am that bread of life" (John 6:48). He too came down from Heaven. He too is the sustenance for our spiritual life; but of all too many Christians it must be said, "They wist not what it was."

To get the benefit of the manna it must be gathered in the morning. It must be gathered daily. If a child of God would know WHO HE IS, he must feed upon Christ constantly, and the place to best find Him is in the Bible in the morning. It must be gathered every day, so that thus, day by day, you learn to KNOW HIM.

There are three stages of Bible study — first, the cod liver oil stage, like medicine — next, the shredded wheat stage, dry, but good — and then the peaches and cream stage, you can't pass it up. Feed on Christ and the Word each day. Begin no day without it — and the Devil will shun you, for "dust on the Bible is an invitation to sin."

—M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: John 6:33



*My Bible, to me, is a treasure house
Where I never fail to find
The things I need from day to day,
For heart and soul and mind. —Anon.*

THOT: "These two are married, and no man can part:
dust on the Bible and drought in the heart."

APRIL 22, 1961 (Saturday)

SINGING LIARS

Suggested Scripture Reading: Proverbs 12:13-22

*Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a
deceitful tongue.* Psalm 120:2

THERE are many ways of telling a lie. Some people who pride themselves on never uttering a falsehood would be amazed if they would begin to recount the number of lies they **sing** each Sunday in church. Some miserly ones "raise the roof" with "Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold," while all the while they are fumbling around in their pocket to find the smallest coin for the collection plate. Others, who live a life of worldliness and selfish endeavor, do not recognize how false are the words their lips express when they heartily join in singing, "I surrender all, I surrender all, all to Thee my blessed Saviour, **I surrender all.**"

Sometime ago in the **War Cry** an anonymous author contributed these jewels for "singing liars" to contemplate. He pointed out:

"We sing 'Sweet Hour of Prayer' and then content ourselves with only ten to fifteen minutes of intercession each day. We sing 'Onward Christian Soldiers' but wait to be dragged and drafted into God's service. We wake the echoes with the song, 'O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing,' and then we do not use the one tongue we have for His glory. We sing 'There Shall Be Showers of Blessing' very enthusiastically in dry and sunny weather, but when the Lord sends a few 'literal showers' we find it impossible to come to church because it's raining. We sing 'Blest Be the Tie That Binds' and then let the least little offense sever that precious tie. We sing 'Serve The Lord With Gladness' and then complain constantly about all that we have to do."

Remember, lies are lies whether we speak them or sing them. Next time you open the hymnbook, be sure you mean the words you utter so that you sing with the spirit, and . . . with the **understanding also**" (I Cor. 14:15).

—H.G.B.



*Words are things of little cost,
Quickly spoken, quickly lost;
We forget them, but they stand
Witnesses at God's right hand,
And a testimony bear*

For us or against us There. —Anon.

THOT: "After all is said and done, more is **SAID** than **DONE.**"

APRIL 23, 1961 (Sunday)

WHAT TO DO WITH SIN

Suggested Scripture Reading: Psalm 32

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper

Proverbs 28:13

Blessed is he . . . whose sin is covered. Psalm 32:1

THERE is "no man that sinneth not" — and "the wages of sin is death." The Bible says "all have sinned" and also "he that sinneth shall die." Something must be done about sin, for a holy God cannot condone, or overlook, or ignore it. Man seeks many ways to get rid of sin. Some deny its existence but they die just the same. Some ignore it, but sin will not ignore them, and they too must face its grim penalty. Others try to hide or cover their sin just as Adam and Eve did with their fig leaves, but God's X-rays penetrate all man's flimsy garments. They are to Him but spider webs, but "their webs shall not become garments" (Isa. 59:6). Others try to excuse their sins but there is no excuse when God has provided a perfect remedy. Yes, God has provided a covering for sin — the first picture of it is given to us in Genesis 3:21 where God slew a substitute, and covered the sinner with its bloody skins. This was only a shadow of Calvary, where the blood of God's Lamb was shed to cover our sin. It not only avails for the sinner's sin, but the sins we commit afterwards as saints. We are prone to sin. We should not sin — but we do — all too often. For these transgressions, too, God has provided the blood. Don't YOU try to COVER your sin, but let Him COVER it. All you need do is CONFESS and He FORGIVES (I John 1:9). As often as we sin we may confess, and as often as we confess He forgives.

—M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 32:5

*Lord, like the publican I stand,
And lift my heart to Thee;
Thy pardoning grace, O God, command,
Be merciful to me.* —T. Raffles

THOT: "To err is human, but if the eraser wears out before the pencil — it is being overdone."

APRIL 24, 1961 (Monday)

THE POWER OF SPIRITUAL JOY

Suggested Scripture Reading: Psalm 51:7-13

*... neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is
your strength.* Nehemiah 8:10

THE deep feeling of contentment arising out of the sense of sins forgiven and the happy assurance of God's perfect guidance through life, gives the Christian an abiding, inner strength and joy which the trials and tribulations of earth cannot destroy.

A Hindu trader in India once asked a native Christian, "What medicine do you put on your face to make it shine so?" With surprise the other answered, "I don't put anything on it!" The heathen questioner, losing patience, said with considerable emphasis, "**Yes, you do!** All you Christians must! I've seen it in Agra, in Ahmadabad, in Surat, and even in Bombay." Then the believer in Jesus understood, and his face glowed all the more as he exclaimed, "Now I know what you mean, and I will tell you the secret. It is not something we put on **from the outside**, it is something that comes **from within!** It is a **shining from God!**" Indeed, even as the holy place of old was lit by the Shekinah glory, so Christians, as temples of the Holy Spirit, should have faces lit by the joy of the Lord! The worldly man may occasionally have a form of "happiness," but only the ransomed soul can know the strengthening power of spiritual joy which the peace of God affords.

Joy being one of the lovely clusters of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), it should be obvious that the Lord Jesus doesn't want His child to go around with a long face and a pessimistic outlook on life.

Today you can be a better witness for Christ and a source of strength to others if you let the JOY OVERFLOW!
—H.G.B.



*I used to ask for many things
For health and great success:
They seemed to my poor shrunken soul
The sum of happiness.
No longer do I ask for things,
For Christ is my desire:
He walks with me and talks with me,
He is my Satisfier! —Edythe A. Band*

THOT: "Joy is the flag which is flown from the castle of the heart when the King reigns unhindered there!"

APRIL 25, 1961 (Tuesday)

THE BLOSSOMING DESERT

Suggested Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35

... I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase

Ezekiel 34:26, 27

TODAY we drove through the monotonous, depressing stretches of the Mojave Desert. What a forsaken country! Miles and miles and miles of wasteland, barren and dry. The temperature was 115 degrees. Scarcely any vegetation and no sign of life, save a lone optimistic turkey buzzard wheeling above looking for some unfortunate "critter." Then we came to a rise, crossed the foothills, and suddenly at a bend in the road — SURPRISE — for stretching before our bewildered eyes, were acres and acres of fruitful fields and orchards. Stretching out in the distance to our left were large areas covered with green alfalfa, great plots of corn and blooming cotton, orchards of grapefruit, and heavily laden vineyards. Acres of LIFE! A coyote barely missed being struck by our car, while a jackrabbit sat up to watch us go by. To the right side of the road was still DESERT. For miles and miles it stretched, until lost in the haze of the distant mountains; but to the left of the road — nothing but lush green vegetation. To the right — DEATH; to the left — LIFE. What made the difference? ONE WORD answers it: WATER! An irrigation canal had brought the "water of life" down from the melting snow and springs in the mountains to that thirsty plain below.

Water in Scripture is symbolic of two things — the WORD of God and the SPIRIT of God (John 7:38, 39; Eph. 5:26). Some Christians are deserts — others are like the garden of Eden. Are you a fruitful Christian or is your life barren? One word tells the story. WATER! Have you opened the "gates" this morning by reading the WORD? Without the WORD your day will be a desert. With it — it can be fruitful (Psa. 1:3).

—M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: Jeremiah 17:7, 8

As a tree beside the waters has the Saviour planted me;

All my fruit shall be in season, I shall live eternally.

I shall not be moved — I shall not be moved;

Drinking of that living water, I shall not be moved!

—A. H. Ackley

THOT: "The sluice-gates of God's reservoir of blessing are the covers of your Bible, open them if you wish to have a verdant, well-watered life!"

—G.W.

APRIL 26, 1961 (Wednesday)

THE TEST OF THINGS "EXPEDIENT"

Suggested Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 6:9-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient . . . all things edify not. I Corinthians 10:23

THAT which is permissible to a Christian is not always to be practiced. Some things that are allowable are not profitable to godliness or a good testimony. The reason so many Christians find little progress in their spiritual life is not because they are living in gross sin, but rather because their hearts and minds are constantly occupied with things that "edify not." Often abuse is made of so-called "innocent things"—things which in the strictest sense of the word cannot be called "unlawful." What is more innocent, for instance, than rest and retirement; and yet what is more dangerous than sloth and idleness? What is more lawful than eating and drinking; yet what is more destructive of virtue and holiness than sensuality and indulgence?

Here is an excellent test by which we can discern whether that which occupies our attention is expedient or not. Especially is it useful in analyzing each pastime and amusement. Ask yourself:

1. Does it rest and strengthen, or does it weary and weaken the body and brain?

2. Does it make resistance to temptation easier, or harder?

3. Does it increase, or lessen love for virtue, purity, temperance, and justice?

4. Does it give inspiration and quicken enthusiasm, or does it stupefy the intellect and harden the moral nature?

5. Does it draw one nearer to, or remove one farther from Christ?

In Central America there grows a plant called the **Nardoo**, which, though it satisfies hunger, is destitute of all nutritional elements. A party of Englishmen, thinking it good food and being unaware of its deceptive character, is said to have perished of starvation while feeding upon it. This is the lot, too, of those who find their portion in earthly things—God gives them their request, but sends "leanness into their soul." Be careful of things which are "not expedient" and which "edify not." —H.G.B.

O Lord, direct me in the use

Of things that lawful are;

For lawful things may have abuse,

And prove a fatal snare. —A. Bogatzky

THOT: "The nearer you live to the world, the less power you have over it!"

APRIL 27, 1961 (Thursday)

IT'S ALL TRUE!

Suggested Scripture Reading: Revelation 15:1-6

... and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Revelation 7:14

WHEN the Apostle John inquired concerning the people who were present before the Throne of God, he was told, "these are they which . . . have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." In other words, only those who have been united to the Lord Jesus Christ by faith can ever enter Heaven.

Arthur T. Pierson vouches for the truth of the following story. He says, "I knew a young man who was an infidel and did not believe in a future state. He would say, 'When I die I'm going to dust, and that will be the end of me.' He, however, had a Christian mother, who had long prayed for him. One day he came home from his office about noon and said, 'Mother, I am very tired; I think I will lie down till lunch is ready.' So he lay down and fell asleep. At one o'clock she spoke to him and said, 'We are ready to sit down at the table.' He made no reply, and she could not awaken him. She shook him violently, but he was in a comatose state, and there was no perceptible pulse. He sank lower and lower until his breathing also was scarcely noticeable. They sent at once for a physician, who came in, examined him, listened to his heart, and then said regretfully, 'I can do nothing for him; you will just be compelled to leave him as he is. He may come out of it, and he may not!' About five in the afternoon, as they were sitting around him, simply watching the last rays of flickering life, the young man opened his eyes, looked around, saw his mother, and stretching out his hand to her, said, '**Mother, what you taught me is all true! There is a future life. I've been treading along the verge of another world, and have been looking over into that other life. Mother, it's all true!**' He shut his eyes and died. God apparently allowed him to come back from the shore of the other world just long enough to assure that mother, who had trained him in the faith, that he saw at last his error and had abandoned his infidelity."

Heaven is real! Have you made preparation to enter there? Have your robes been washed in the blood of the Lamb?

—H.G.B.

*And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," My lips shall still repeat.*

—Mrs. H. M. Hall

THOT: "All the Bible's promises of Heaven are signed in the blood of Christ."

APRIL 28, 1961 (Friday)

NOT TOLERANCE — BUT LOVE

Suggested Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 13

Charity [love] never faileth . . . I Corinthians 13:8

THE slogan in this day of integration, compromise, and "peace at any cost" is TOLERANCE! Since our dream of ONE world has evaporated, we see only one alternative with the two opposing ideologies of Communism and Democracy; namely, to try and get along together by "tolerance." We cannot agree — but we will put up with each other. And so we preach TOLERANCE — tolerance among nations, religions, and different social groups. Tolerance, however, is not the final answer. Tolerance can only go so far and it reaches the breaking point. If a husband and wife merely tolerate each other, there is going to be an explosion sooner or later — **most likely sooner!** Tolerance is limited — but "LOVE NEVER FAILETH!"

In looking up the Greek word for "faileth" in this verse (I Cor. 13:8), I find it to be "EKPIPTO" — translated also as "fall" (Gal. 5:4 and I Pet. 1:24). It is the same word used by Peter when he says, "The flower thereof falleth away." It is the same word as "faileth" in I Corinthians 13:8. It never droops. It never fades. Love never loses its color or fragrance. It never dies. In the same verse (8) it says, "prophecies shall fail," but here another word is used in the original, meaning "to become idle" or "to stop." Love never becomes idle. It goes beyond the call of duty. The great need today in the world and among Christians is not TOLERANCE but LOVE! A love that does not merely help us to "put up" with people, but to love them instead. Tolerance is limited — LOVE BEARETH ALL THINGS. Oh the great need for love. Thousands are dying from lack of a little love. Nothing is more God-like than love. —M.R.D.

MEMORY VERSE: I John 3:18

Do you know the world is dying for a little bit of love?

Everywhere we hear the sighing for a little bit of love;

For the love that rights a wrong, fills the heart with hope

[and song;

They have waited, oh, so long, for a little bit of love!

—E. O. Excell

THOT: "They say tolerance is a virtue, but I don't want anybody being tolerant of me; it sounds like I'm something nasty they are just willing to put up with!" —Aunt Het

APRIL 29, 1961 (Saturday)

TRUSTING JESUS — THAT IS ALL!

Suggested Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:1-13

... Christ ... in whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

Ephesians 1:12, 13

WHAT does it mean to trust Christ for salvation? Perhaps the answer can best be given by relating the true experience of a seeking sinner who faced this problem, and who finally found the peace with God he desired. Concerned about his soul, he confided in a Christian friend, telling him about his spiritual difficulties. The believer was a wise man who discerned very quickly that the confused doubter was trying to obtain everlasting life by his own efforts. The one under conviction spoke often of his "sincere prayers" and his "heartfelt desires after salvation" but continually lamented that he "did not feel any different in spite of it all. The Christian let him unburden himself for a few moments, then he inquired, "Jack, did you ever learn to float?" Somewhat startled by the abrupt turn of the conversation, the other replied, "Yes, I did." "And did you find it easy to learn?" "No, not at first." "What was the difficulty?" "Well, the fact is, I could not lie still; I could not believe or realize that the water would hold me up, without any effort of my own so I always began to struggle, and, of course, down I went." "And then?" "Why, then I found out that I must only just rest, give up all the struggle, and the water would bear me up. It was easy enough for me after that; I was able to lie back in the fullest confidence that I would never sink." "And is not God's Word more worthy of your trust than the changeable sea?" said the Christian. "Remember, Jack, He does not bid you wait for feelings. He commands you to just rest in Him and to believe His Word." The man saw his error and trusted Christ!

Sinner, disregard your feelings, stop your useless tears and strivings, and simply trust Him who said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). —H.G.B.

*Jesus, I will trust Thee, trust Thee with my soul;
Guilty, lost, and helpless — Thou hast made me whole;
There is none in Heaven or on earth like Thee;
Thou hast died for sinners, therefore, Lord, for me!*

—Anon.

THOT: "Salvation is not giving up SOMETHING, but rather receiving SOMEONE!"

APRIL 30, 1961 (Sunday)

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